

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please replace the existing claims with the following set of claims:

1.    (Previously presented) A suspension apparatus for supporting medical appliances, said suspension apparatus comprising a length of material joined together so as to form an upper section and a lower section, wherein said length of material forming said upper section and said lower section is uniform in diameter throughout said upper section and said lower section, and wherein said upper section is dimensioned to fit over a user's head, and wherein the medical appliance is attached to said lower section.

2.    (Original) The suspension apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a first end and a second end joined together into a joint thereby forming a continuous loop.

3.    (Original) The suspension apparatus of claim 2, wherein said joint comprises a splice.

4.    (Original) The suspension apparatus of claim 3, wherein said splice is smooth.

5. (Original) The suspension apparatus of claim 1, wherein said length of material is formed from nylon.

6. (Original) The suspension apparatus of claim 1, wherein said length of material comprises a chain of linked elements.

7. (Original) The suspension apparatus of claim 3, wherein said splice has a diameter and said length of material has a diameter, and wherein said splice diameter is approximately equal to said length of material diameter.

8. (Original) The suspension apparatus of claim 2, wherein said continuous loop comprises a top section and a bottom section.

9. (Original) The suspension apparatus of claim 8, wherein said bottom section comprises at least two segments of said length of material gathered together.

10. (Original) The suspension apparatus of claim 9, wherein said at least two segments lie proximate one another.

11. (Original) The suspension apparatus of claim 10, wherein said at least two segments are parallel to one another.

12. (Original) The suspension apparatus of claim 9, further comprising means for securing said at least two segments together.

13. (Original) The suspension apparatus of claim 12, wherein said means for securing comprises at least one clasp.

14. (Previously presented) A method of retaining objects about a person comprising the steps of:

a) obtaining at least one length of material having a first end and a second end;

b) splicing said first end to said second end of said at least one length of material;

c) forming said at least one length of material into an upper loop and a lower section, wherein said length of material forming said upper loop and said lower section is uniform in diameter throughout said upper loop and said lower section;

d) placing said at least one length of material around a person's neck; and

e) attaching an object to said lower section.

15. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein said lower section comprises at least two segments of said at least one length of material.

16. (Original) The method of claim 15, wherein said at least two segments lie proximate one another.

17. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein said lower portion comprises two parallel segments.

18. (Original) The method of claim 16, further comprising the step of:

c') installing means for gathering on said lower section of said at least one length of material,

19. (Original) The method of claim 18, wherein said means for gathering comprises clasps.

20. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein said step of attaching comprises pinning the object to said lower portion via at least one safety pin.

21. (Withdrawn-Previously presented) A medical appliance comprising:

at least one wound drainage system; and

at least one support for said at least one wound drainage system, wherein said support comprises a length of material forming a spliced loop, wherein said spliced loop comprises a top section, a bottom section and at least one fastener, and wherein said top section and said bottom section are uniform in diameter, and wherein said bottom section further comprising at least two segments of said length of material, wherein said at least two segments lie proximate and parallel one another, and wherein said two segments are held together via said at least one fastener.

22. (Previously presented) A suspension apparatus for supporting medical appliances, said suspension apparatus comprising a length of material joined together forming a spliced loop, said spliced loop further comprising at least two segments of said length of material, wherein said at least

two segments are uniform in diameter, and wherein said at least two segments lie proximate and parallel one another, wherein said length of material has first end and second end, and wherein medical appliances are attached to said first end and said second end via at least one fastener.